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REMARKS

This response is intended as a complete response to the Office Action dated July 14, 2005. In view of the following discussion, the Applicants believe that all claims are in allowable form.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. §102 Claims 1-8, 27-38, 60, and 61

Claims 1-8, 27-38, 60, and 61 stand rejected as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,420,194 issued July 16, 2002 to *Reitman* (hereinafter referred to as "*Reitman*"). The Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claims 1 and 29 recite limitations not taught or suggested by *Reitman*. *Reitman* does not teach or suggest performing a process perturbation operation in the process chamber. *Reitman* discloses monitoring substrate processing operations, such as etching, through real time observations of respective state variables during the processes (Column 1 lines 56-62). For example, *Reitman* teaches using the monitoring method for finding the endpoint in an etch process (Column 6, lines 14-16). Thus, *Reitman* does not teach or suggest performing a substrate processing operation and a process perturbation operation in a process chamber, as recited by claims 1 and 29.

Therefore, claims 1 and 29, and the claims that depend therefrom, are patentable over *Reitman*. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 9-22 and 39-55 are allowed.

CONCLUSION

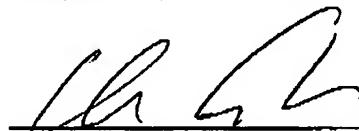
Thus, the Applicants submit that all claims now pending are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issuance are earnestly solicited.

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If, however, the Examiner believes that any unresolved issues still exist, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Keith Taboada at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,



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